DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 9,12,591 under Demand I - Excise.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: (*Mavelikara and Muvattupazha* cum *Devicolam*): സർ, എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ഭരണനയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നരണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ പ്രതിപാദിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ഭരണനയം തിരുവിതാംകൂർഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് ഒരുകോടി രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു പര്യാപ്തമാകുന്നു എന്നു കാണുന്നതിൽ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അനുമോദിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ ഭരണനയത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നരണ്ടു നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നടപ്പാക്കിയാൽ കൊള്ളാമെന്നു ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. ഒന്നാമതായി ഉപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു് എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു്. ലൈസൻസികൾക്കു ഉപ്പിനു് മൺ ഒന്നിനു ഫ 0 അണ ആണു ഗവണ്മെൻറു് അനുവദിച്ചുകൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഉപ്പു് ഉൽപ്പാദനത്തിനു ഒരു മണ്ണിനു രണ്ടണയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവാകയില്ല എന്നാണു് എൻറെ അറിവു്. ഇന്നത്തെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു റോയൽറ്റിയിനത്തിൽ ഒരു മണ്ണിനു വു അണ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒരു ചാക്കിനു ഒരു രൂപാ ആദായം ലൈസൻസികൾക്കു കിട്ടുന്നുണ്ടു്, ഫ 0 അണ റോയൽറ്റിതന്നെ നിശ്ചയിച്ചതു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ആവശ്യത്തിനു് ഉപ്പുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനു ഉൽപ്പാദകന്മാരെ ലഭിക്കാതെ വന്നാലോ എന്നു വിചാരിച്ചുമാത്രമാണു്. ഇന്നത്തെ സ്ഥിതി പാടേ മാറിയിരിക്കുന്നു. നമ്മുടെ ആവശ്യത്തിനു ഉപ്പു ധാരാളം ഇവിടെ വിളയിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു മാത്രമല്ല കൊച്ചി തുടങ്ങിയ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിലേക്കു നാം ഉപ്പു ഇവിടെനിന്നു അയക്കുന്നുമുണ്ടു്. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു മുമ്പു നിശ്ചയിച്ച ഫ 0 അണ റേറുതന്നെ ഇപ്പോഴും കൊടുക്കണമെന്നില്ല. ഉൽപ്പാദനത്തിനു രണ്ടണയിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചിലവില്ല എങ്കിലും ഇന്നത്തെ യുദ്ധപരിതസ്ഥിതി അനുസരിച്ചു കൂലിക്കാർക്കു വിഷമമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു മണ്ണിനു മൂന്നണ റേറു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടും തരക്കേടില്ല. ഉപ്പളം കൺട്രാക്ടർമാർക്കു അമിതമായ ലാഭത്തിനു ഇടകൊടുക്കരുതെന്നാണു എൻറെ അഭിപ്രായം.

ഇനി എനിക്കൊന്നു പറയാനുള്ളതു ഒരുകോടി രൂപായ്ക്കുമേൽ ആദായം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ സിൽബന്ധികളുടെ ആഫീസുകളുടെ അനാശാസ്യഗതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണു്. എക്സൈസ് റേഞ്ചാഫീസ്, അസിസ്റ്റൻറ് കമ്മീഷണേഴ്സ് ആഫീസുമുതലായവയെല്ലാം വാടക കെട്ടിടങ്ങളിലാണു് ഇട്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ ആഫീസുകളിലുള്ള ഫർണിച്ചർതന്നെ ചന്തുമേനോൻ ശാരദയിലെ പഞ്ചുമേ

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

നോന്റെ വക്കീലാഫീസിനെപ്പറ്റി വിവരിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന പ്രകാരമാണ്. അതായത് ഒന്നരണ്ടു കടിഞ്ഞ കസേരയും ഒരു കാലില്ലാത്ത മേശയും ആണ അവിടെ കാണുന്നത്. അസിസ്റ്റന്റ് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ആഫീസ് കണ്ടാൽ അതൊരു ഗവണ്മെന്റ് ആഫീസാണെന്നതന്നെ തോന്നുകയില്ല. ഈ സ്ഥിതിക്കു ഒരു മാറ്റം വരുത്തേണ്ടതു എന്തായും ആത്യാവശ്യമാണ്.

ഇനി എനിക്കു ഒരു സംഗതി പറയാനുള്ളതു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ ഗാർഡുകളുടെ ശമ്പളത്തെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. ഇവരുടെ ശമ്പളം ൯൫ രൂപാമുതൽ ൧൫൦ രൂപാവരെയാണ. പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ ഇവരുടെ സ്റ്റാറ്റസിലുള്ളവരുടെ ശമ്പളം ഇതിനേക്കാൾ വളരെ കൂടുതലാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് എക്സൈസ് ഗാർഡുകൾക്കും പോലീസുകാരെപ്പോലുള്ള ശമ്പളവും സ്റ്റാറ്റസും കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെടുന്നു.

ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ കീഴിൽബന്ധിരുള്ളതിനേക്കാൾ വല്ല പരാതിയും ലഭിച്ചാൽ വളരെ കർശനമായ ശിക്ഷയാണ നൽകിവരുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ അഴിമതിക്കു കുറവുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാതെ തരമില്ല. എങ്കിലും ഒരു സംഗതി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ അരി കിട്ടാനും മറ്റും വളരെ വിഷമമുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലെ പെറിയാഫീസറന്മാരെയും ഗാർഡുകളെയും അവരവരുടെ സ്വന്തദേശത്തുതന്നെ നിയമിക്കണമെന്നാണ്.

Sahib Bahadur M. Sultan Mulliadheen (*Trivandrum and Nedumangaad*) *Chirayinkil*): സർ, എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ഭരണം ഇന്നത്തെ ഭരണാദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്റെ കീഴിൽ കുറ്റമറ്റരീതിയിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്നു എന്നുള്ളതു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതിനു എനിക്കു വളരെ സന്തോഷമുണ്ട്. ഏഴെട്ടു കൊല്ലത്തിനു മുമ്പു ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റു ഭരിച്ചിരുന്ന മേധാവിതന്നെ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽ കൈക്കൂലി നടമാടിയിരുന്നുഎന്നു ഈ സഭയിൽ സമ്മതിക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. എന്നാൽ ഇന്നാകട്ടെ കൈക്കൂലിക്കും അഴിമതിക്കും എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചുള്ള മാറ പരാതികൾക്കും സാരമായ കുറവു വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയുന്നതു വെറും പരമാർത്ഥം മാത്രമാണ്; ഇതോടുകൂടി എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ എനിക്ക് ഒന്നരണ്ടു സംഗതികൾ കൊണ്ടുവരുവാനുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ എഫിഷ്യൻസി അനുസരിച്ചു ചില ഉദ്യോഗക്കയറ്റങ്ങളും പ്രോത്സാഹനങ്ങളും കൊടുക്കുന്ന ഒരു പതിവു മറ്റെല്ലാ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റുകളിലും എന്നപോലെ എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിലും ഉണ്ട്. എഫിഷ്യൻസി ഒരു സമുദായക്കാർക്കോ, ഒരു താലൂക്കുകാർക്കോ കുത്തകയായ

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ന്നല്ല. എഫിഷ്യൻസിയുള്ളവർ എല്ലാസമുദായത്തിലും ധാരാളമുണ്ട്. മുസ്ലിംസമുദായത്തിന്റെ കഥ നോക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ഇന്നു സഭയിലിരിക്കുന്ന ഏതൊരു മുസ്ലീം ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും കായ്ക്ഷമതയിൽ ഒട്ടും കുറഞ്ഞവനല്ല എന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കും ബോധ്യമായ ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്. സത്യസന്ധനും, ന്യായസ്ഥനും ഉൗർജ്ജസ്വലനുമായ ഇന്നത്തെ കമ്മീഷണർ ഞങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായാംഗങ്ങളോട് ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ അനീതി കാണിക്കുന്നു എന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽ പെടാതെയും, പെട്ടതായാലും പല സംഗതികളും കണ്ടേക്കാം. എന്നാൽ എനിക്ക് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ ദൃഷ്ടിയിൽപെട്ടതാണുള്ളത് കായ്ക്ഷമതയുള്ള ഏതെങ്കിലും മുസ്ലിം സമുദായാംഗങ്ങളുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ പ്രോൽസാഹനം കൊടുക്കാനുള്ള സന്ദർഭം വരുമ്പോൾ അപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യണം, അയാളെ പരിഗണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കണം എന്നുള്ളതു മാത്രമാണ്.

ചില ഉപ്പളങ്ങളിൽ ലൈസൻസികളുടെ അറിവോടുകൂടിയോ കൂടാതെയോ അവരുടെ ആളുകളുടെ പേരിൽ ഉപ്പു ചെറുവെഴുതിച്ചു അത്യാവശ്യക്കാർക്ക് കൂടുതൽ തുകക്കു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നതായി ഒരു പരാതി കേൾക്കാനിടയായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതു അന്വേഷിച്ചു വാസ്തവമാണെങ്കിൽ ഇതിലേക്കു വേണ്ട പരിഹാരമുണ്ടാക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരോട് അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

ഇന്നു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ വരുമാനവും ജോലിക്കൂടുതലും ഉള്ള ഒരു ചെറുകയാണു് ആതുരവാമൊഴി. ഇതു് എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണരും സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അവിടത്തെ ജോലിക്കൂടുതലിനും വരവിനും തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള സിബ്ബന്ധികം അവിടെയില്ലെന്നാണു ഞാനറിയുന്നതു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് അവിടത്തെ ജോലിക്കൂടുതലിനേയും വരവിനേയും പരിഗണിച്ചു ഒരു എക്സൈസ് സബ്ബ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടരെ കൂടുതലായി നിയമിക്കുകയോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവിടത്തെ ജോലി തൃപ്തികരമായവിധം നടത്തുന്നതിനു കൂടുതൽ പ്രിവൻറീവു സ്റ്റാഫിനെ നിയമിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യണം എന്നുകൂടി ഞൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar (*Vaikom, Kottayam, Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): I wish to.....

President: I trust that honourable members who wish to speak will kindly give their names to the Secretary so that I can call them up in definite order.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay a glowing tribute to the Excise Commissioner for contributing about two crores of rupees as revenue to the State Exchequer from his department and also for his administrative efficiency.

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

My honourable friend Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai referred to the large profits that were being made by the salt licensees. I may be permitted to point out that, that remark might have been made on account of his lack of understanding of the conditions of salt factories in South Travancore. In fact, as everybody knows, the only commodity in the market, the price of which has not risen appreciably is salt. The conditions of labour, the problem of food supplies, the increase in the cost of materials required for salt factories, all these have made the cost of production abnormally high. As these have affected other industries, they have equally, if not to a greater degree, affected the salt industry as well, so that the salt licencees are not in any enviable position to-day. In fact, the cost of labour has gone up three times. And there is also considerable insufficiency of labour, both ordinary and skilled labour. There is also considerable difficulty in obtaining food-stuffs. I am pointing out to the Government the necessity of paying more attention for the regular supply of rice or distribution of paddy to the coolies working in the factories. It seems to have escaped the attention of the Government. Greater care is needed especially due to the fact that it is a very essential commodity which is used for daily life. Secondly, the abnormal cost of the price of crude oil, lubricating oil and other requisites which are required for the working of the engines in the factory have also contributed to the increased cost of production. Owing to the representations made to the Government by the salt licensees, I believe that the Government is seriously considering the question of making some arrangement for the supply of oils more or less on the lines on which the punja cultivators were supplied. If the Government has not very seriously taken up the matter, I wish the Government will take up the matter as early as possible so that before the work commences in the factories for the next season they are ensured of an adequate supply of crude oil for the working of the engines in the factories. The Government, already realising that the cost of production and the cost of handling and other charges have gone very high, has made a very small increase in the allowance to the licensees. My submission is that it is very inadequate to the increased cost of labour and other materials already pointed out by me, and that an increase so as to bring the dues to the licensees to Re. one per maund would be a fair rate which can be legitimately expected.

Another point which I wish to place before Government is the necessity to increase the number of working months of the salt factories. There has been a reduction of the working months during the last two years, 1117 and 1118, the heavy and unseasonal rains, and also by the increased consumption in the State.

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From the stage of self-sufficiency, we came to the stage of over-production. Fortunately, by the control measures, production has been brought down, more or less, on a par with consumption. Moreover facilities for export of excess salt have been given and a good quantity is being now exported to places outside the State. Owing to the recent circulars of Government and also to the exports of individual salt licensees, a very appreciable quantity is reduced on account of the separation of calcium sulphate at a lower degree, which also purifies the salt. There is also the prospect of new factories being started for the production of caustic soda, chlorine and bleaching powder, all of which would be produced by different processes from common salt. A good deal of common salt may be utilised for the manufacture of these essential commodities, which will also contribute to the reduction of the total stock. Therefore the Government must consider the prayer of the licensees to increase the working months of the year favourably so as to enable them to cope with the situation.

President: Order, order. In the course of the next three weeks, probably the honourable member might have known, factories for the production of caustic soda, bleaching powder, ammonium sulphate etc., will be started and then the whole question of supply of salt will have to be considered.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: I believe it will be the most welcome news to every Travancorean, in view of the present conditions. Therefore, I pray that the Government, in the interests of the licensees of the salt factories, and in the interests of the industry as a whole, will allow the licensees larger facilities by increasing the working months and also by other means for increasing the output and reducing the cost of production.

President: Order, order. In response to what I have stated I have received eleven requests from honourable members to speak on the Excise Demand, and in the nature of things, the total number of minutes available now being 40 it will be difficult unless honourable members impose a restraint on themselves and speak for about 2 or 3 minutes only.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai (*Kalkulam and Vilavankod cum Neyyattinkara*): It is indeed a matter for supreme satisfaction—and I am sure, it will be acceded on all sides—that the tone and the efficiency of the Excise Department have considerably increased since the present Excise Commissioner has taken charge of this office. Sir, a department which was almost seething with corruption and where collection was dwindling and arrears mounting up

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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

year by year, has, under the able guidance and control of the present Excise Commissioner metamorphosed to a model department. And we are also very glad that the Government have unhesitatingly recognised the good work turned out by this Department.

Since the time at my disposal is very limited, I wish to draw the attention of Government to one particular important fact. Outside the Aramboly chowkey and within the Travancore frontier, there are three or four villages and the inhabitants of these villages number about 4 or 5 thousand. These people are put to considerable hardship and difficulties due to the custom rules. Very lately the Travancore Government have completely banned the export of all food stuffs and necessaries of life from this State; and consequently the people living in the village of Kumarapuram and suburban villages are put to considerable hardship. Their difficulties are all the more intensified because the British Indian Government also have completely banned all articles of food and every conceivable product useful for human consumption from British India into this State. They have also established checking stations at the outskirts of Travancore territory and they are very vigilant in seeing that not one grain of food is brought into Travancore. Therefore, with these checking stations on one side and the Travancore chowkeys on the other, the inhabitants of these villages are put to great difficulties in the matter of obtaining the necessaries of life. They are cent per cent. agriculturists and now lately the Government have restricted the export of cattle. They are hence unable to carry on their cultivation. There may be the difficulty of changing the chowkey from Aramboly to some other place nearer to our frontiers, but I strongly urge Government that some arrangement may be made, by which these essential commodities may be taken by these people who inhabit these villages.

Mr. G. Narayana Ajyar (*Parur, Kunnatnad, and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): I also congratulate the Excise Commissioner for the efficient working of his department. I should like to bring for the consideration of the Excise Commissioner, one or two facts, which under ordinary circumstances, may not be quite acceptable. The food problem has become a very serious thing and it is impossible to supply the public with the necessary amount of food that they require. Although prohibition should be our ultimate idea, under the existing circumstances, we have to postpone it to a future date. Amongst the lower order of workers, the taking of toddy together with a few bits of tapioca as a substitute for rice, for their evening meals has been considered to be not only tolerable but rather healthy, after a days hard work. Complaints have been made to me that all the choondapana trees that are available for tapping in North Travancore have not been tapped and that the toddy

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contractors are making huge profits by tapping lesser number of trees and by increasing the sale price of toddy to a high amount. In the early part of this year, in the Northern localities toddy was sold at two chuckrams per edangali, but now the price has been increased to 10 chuckrams per edangali. Not only the poor classes but the middle classes who have not been able to get rice in sufficient quantities, have taken recourse to this stuff.

When I received a number of complaints to say that all the trees that could be tapped are not being tapped but are being left untapped, I wanted to ascertain the fact and I took a particular area as a unit from which I could ascertain figures. I wanted to ascertain the number of choondapana trees in the unit, how many trees could be tapped, how many are being tapped and how many are not. In that unit, the total number of trees comes to 3177. When I compared that figure with the official figures, I found that there is not much difference.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : May I know from the honourable member whether he is referring to the tapping of sweet toddy?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : No. Out of these 3100 and odd panas, even if we deduct 25 or 50 per cent of the trees which could not be successfully tapped, due to tender age or old age or other causes, there are more than 1600 and odd trees which could be properly tapped. I ascertained from reliable sources that there is a certain number of good trees that are not being tapped. The total number of trees tapped in that particular unit which unit has six shops under it, was only 635 for all the 3 terms of the year. If the balance of 1000 trees more are tapped that will yield 1000 × 16½ Rs =16500 Rs. more as tree tax to Government for one year. That shows clearly that other trees which could be successfully tapped are not tapped. If I may be permitted to state what I understood from the 1st toddy shop licensees who have been practising this vocation for so many years, I may say that they stated that out of every 100 trees, which could be successfully tapped, about 30 to 40 trees are set apart for illicit tapping, the income from the same to be distributed to subordinates in the department as a regular monthly payment.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : May I ask the honourable member whether he can inform the House the percentage of increase in the number of trees this year in his own place, Perumbavoor?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I do not know that.

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Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: I may inform the House that there is 85 per cent increase in the number of trees tapped this year.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : That may be true. The total increase in the tapping of choondapanas is seen to be 1416 as per the Report of the Department for 1117 and that is the figure for the whole State. But I am speaking of a particular unit. There as per the information that I was able to gather, there are over 1000 trees that could be tapped, Tax on a tree comes to Rs. 16½, On an average, a shop keeper taps only 35 to 60 trees. What he does is to raise the selling price of toddy to a very high amount. By paying the minimum that is payable to the Government, he can get the maximum benefit by raising the price. So, if it is not possible to tap all the trees, I would request the Excise Commissioner to fix a minimum price. What is the fun of raising the price from 2 chs. to 10 chs. an edangali and letting the shopkeeper have all the profits to himself. As this is used as a substitute for rice, as a sort of concession, till conditions improve, either the price should be controlled or more trees should be tapped. We must compel these people to tap more trees because they will not be willing to tap more trees because they will have to pay more license fees.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi (*Karunagapally, Karthigapally and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*) : Is it the Honourable Member's view that his constituency prefers toddy in place of paddy?

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : That is not exactly the position. Some substitute is necessary, and they have taken this as a substitute.

As regards salt, it can be seen that there is some over production of salt here and it is possible to supply salt as manure to agriculturists. Salt is considered to be very good manure. As per salt Rule, salt can be obtained for manure only after observing a lot of formalities. First we have to apply to the Director, and satisfy him and then go to the Commissioner of Excise, and satisfy him. This is a stumbling block and naturally takes a lot of time. What I wish to suggest is that a decent quantity of salt may be entrusted to the Agricultural Inspectors who, are expected to know local conditions and needs. Through them, salt may be easily given to agriculturists, denatured and kept for use. Cannot we entrust the salt to the local Agricultural Inspectors to see that they distribute it properly, and the existing difficulty thus got over? I wish to say one more word. The research officer, under the University on the

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utility of salt has done very useful work and he has to be congratulated for the same and he has established that very valuable chemicals can be manufactured out of the bye-products of salt. It is also gratifying to note that a company is to be started very shortly to take up the manufacture of chemicals from the bye-products. In the circumstances, it is possible, if the rules are so amended, that out of the available area with the owner of salt pans each owner might be compelled to take up or set apart a small area for the manufacture of chemicals from the bye-products which will be a good local enterprise or industry. I submit that this suggestion may be considered.

Mrs. A. Gnanasikhamony (*Nominated*): Sir, Public opinion regarding the work of the Excise Department is satisfactory.

President: The honourable member will kindly raise her voice.

Mrs. A. Gnanasikhamony: The Excise Commissioner deserves our congratulations. The income of the Department has increased under its various heads. The salt factories are well controlled and nowadays we do not hear of very many shifts. Sir, medicinal preparations are made from spirits. Regarding palmyrah toddy I have to make one suggestion. In South Travancore, people have found from their own experience that this palmyrah toddy, not sweet toddy, is a very useful medicine for whooping cough. This whooping cough is a terrible catching disease. It is prevalent mostly among school-going children, especially in the primary sections. These children carry it to their infant brothers and sisters in their houses, so that in a few months, especially in the hot months of February, March, April and May—almost all the houses become infected with this disease. The Education Code says that such children should be detained from school for three months. Even small-pox affected children are detained only for a lesser period. Thus, it is clear how terrible a catching effect it has. And this disease is not only prevalent in our State, but present in the hot districts on the other side of the ghats too. So, what I suggest, Sir, is, why not this toddy be subjected to tests in the Research Department of the University so that they could make some investigations on it and prepare patent medicines out of it? Allopathic doctors say there is no medicine for such a disease. But, if some thing could be done with this toddy, that will be very good. I think it may also give some income to the Government, notwithstanding.

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[Mrs. Gnanasikhamony.]

Transfer of Excise Peons.

This question has already been pointed out by an honourable member. These peons are low-paid men. With their low pay, when they are transferred from the extreme north to the south and from the south to the north, they are not able to make themselves fit for their work and they find it very hard to maintain themselves. They cannot take their family to those places where they are transferred. Because of the food situation and the high prices in the hotels, they have to go a—starving when they come home from duty. So it will be only conducive to the efficient working of the department to have the working quarters of these peons near their houses. With these words, Sir, I support the demand.

Mr. T. K. Kittan (*Vaikom, Kottayam and Changanacherry-cum Peermade*) : എക്സൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിന്റെ ഭരണം വളരെ ദുഷ്കരമായിരിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് പല മെംബർമാരും ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഞാൻ അവരോട് പരിപൂർണ്ണമായി യോജിക്കുന്നു. കള്ളിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ആക്ഷേപം എന്താണ്ടു മാറിവരുന്നതായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്. മദ്യം, മൽസ്യം, മാംസം മുതലായവ ജന്മനാതന്നെ വെറുക്കുന്ന ഒരു മഹാബ്രാഹ്മണൻ ഇപ്പോൾ കുള്ള് സാധുക്കൾക്കു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നു പറയുകയും അതുകൊണ്ട് അതിന്റെ ഉല്പാദനത്തെയും വില്പനയെയും പ്രോൽസാഹിപ്പിക്കണമെന്ന് ഉൽബോധിപ്പിക്കുകയും ഉണ്ടായി. അത് വളരെ ശരിയാണ്, ആ അഭിപ്രായത്തോട് ഞാൻ അത്മാർത്ഥമായി യോജിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ആദ്യമായി 'കള്ള്' എന്ന പേരുതന്നെ ഒന്നുമാറ്റണം. ഈ പേര് എങ്ങനെയുണ്ടായി? തെങ്ങിൽ നിന്ന് ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഈ സാധനത്തിന് കള്ള് എന്ന പേരുതന്നെ കൊടുക്കണമോ? അതുകൊണ്ട് ആ പേരുമാറ്റി നല്ല ഒരു പേര് ഇടണം. ഞാൻ ഒരു പേര് കണ്ടുവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. വേണമെങ്കിൽ സ്വീകരിക്കാം. 'മധു', കള്ളുഷാപ്പ് എന്നുള്ളത് മാറ്റി മധുഷാപ്പ് എന്നാക്കണം. കള്ള് എന്നു പറയുമ്പോൾ ഉള്ള അവജ്ഞകൊണ്ട് കുടിക്കാൻ വിഷമിക്കുന്നവരായി പലരുമുണ്ട്. പേരിനോടുള്ള വെറുപ്പുകൊണ്ടു മാത്രം കുടിക്കാൻ ഇഷ്ടമില്ലാത്തവരാണ് ഇവർ. ഈ ഇരിക്കുന്നബഹുമാന്യപ്പെട്ട അമ്മ പറഞ്ഞു കള്ള് വില്പനചുമയുള്ള നല്ലതാണെന്ന്. വളരെ ശരിയാണ് അത്. ഈ രോഗം വന്ന് അനവധി കുട്ടികൾ മരിച്ചുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതിന്റെ പ്രയോജനത്തെപ്പറ്റി ബോദ്ധ്യം വരുത്തിയതിനുശേഷം അലോപ്പതിക്കാരെയും ആയുർവേദക്കാരെയും കൊണ്ടു കള്ളിനെ ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള രോഗങ്ങൾക്ക് ഔഷധ

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മായി സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ ശ്രമിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇങ്ങനെ ഏതൊരുവശത്തു കൂടി നോക്കിയാലും കള്ള് പോഷകാംശങ്ങളുള്ള നല്ലൊരു സാധനമാണെന്നു കാണാൻ കഴിയും.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : പ്രമേഹത്തിനു മധുരക്കള്ള് നല്ലൊരു മരുന്നാണെന്നറിയാമോ?

Mr. T. K. Kittan : ഞാൻ അതു പറയാൻവരികയാണ്. ഈ വിവരം ഞാൻ ഇടയിടെ രണ്ടുമൂന്നു പേർക്ക് പറഞ്ഞുകൊടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.

ഈ തൊഴിലിൽ ഏർപ്പെട്ടിരിക്കുന്നയാളുകൾക്കും വലിയ ആക്ഷേപമുണ്ട്. അവരെ ചെത്താളുകൾ എന്നാണു പറയുന്നത്. ഈ പേരു കേൾക്കുമ്പോൾ എല്ലാവർക്കും ഒരു പുച്ഛരസവും ആക്ഷേപവുമാണു തോന്നുക. അതും മാറേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇവർ ഒരാണ്ടിൽ മുപ്പത്തിരണ്ടു ലക്ഷം രൂപാ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു ആദായമുണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കൂട്ടരാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അവരുടെ പേരുംമാറ്റി അവരെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ആക്ഷേപവും ഇല്ലായ്മചെയ്യേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സിനെക്കുറിച്ചാണ്. സ്റ്റാറ്റിസ്റ്റിക്സ് പുസ്തകത്തിൽ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് വകുപ്പിൽ 'ടോഡിഡ്രായേഴ്സ്' എന്നെഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു ആരേ ഉദ്ദേശിച്ചാണ് എഴുതിയിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Tappers, Sir.

Mr. T. K. Kittan : സർ, ഈ വകുപ്പിൽ നമ്പൂരിസ്ത്രീകളുംകൂടി ഉൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുകാണുന്നു. അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു എവിടെയുള്ള സ്ത്രീകളാണെന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽകൊള്ളാം. ഞങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടിൽ സ്ത്രീകൾ ആരുംതന്നെ മരത്തിൽ കേറുന്നവരല്ല. എന്തായാലും ഈ കള്ള് എന്നു പറയുന്നതു ഒരു ആഹാരസാധനമാക്കിത്തീർക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ ഉൽബോധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു ഉപസംഹരിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla (*Mavelikara and Thiruvella cum Pathanamthitta*) : My honourable friend Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar made a request to the Government that prohibition may be postponed as if the Government would be giving immediate attention to that question. The Commissioner said that the trees have been increased to 85 per cent. to produce toddy. He also suggested that at this time when we are hard-pressed for paddy and rice, toddy

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might be substituted. I have read that in certain parts of Northern India, poor women administer opium to their children when they go out to their fields for work. I am glad that my honourable friend Mr. Narayana Aiyar has not suggested that opium should be brought to this country so that it may be administered to us and we be enabled to enjoy blissful, imaginative comfort.

An Honourable Member: Opium is a food and not a substitute for food.

President: Order, order.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am sorry I am not an expert in this matter. The Medical Council I hope will issue a statement as to the value of this thing.

President: Figures have been published on the nutritive value of toddy.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am rather worried over this thing, because the Financial Secretary also not only recommended toddy, but said that the economic situation has improved the sale of liquor. I wonder whether my friend, the Financial Secretary, will also advise us to use arrack in addition to toddy. I, therefore, trust that this question will be gone into and a solution arrived at.

The Excise Commissioner has received the appreciation of members both in this House and outside. I would like to say that there are two things to which he should pay more attention. One is that in a place like Kozhencherry where there are about 1,500 pupils in the Schools, nearby there is a toddy shop. I think it has been going on there for some years and a I am sure the Commissioner does not want the girls also to enjoy the sweetness of toddy like boys.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: May I know from the honourable member whether the school was brought near the toddy shop or toddy shop brought near the school?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: The Director of Public Instruction would tell us that it is rather difficult to remove these school buildings from their present sites after having spent so many rupees on them. But that is not the case of a structure like the toddy shop. It can easily be removed from its present location.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Does not the honourable member think that the toddy shop would have been stopped long before if there was not the school nearby?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Probably that may be the reason. I do not see any reason why the Commissioner should think that the shop should be located there.

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Mr. M. Govindan (*Nominated*): May I know whether the member is aware that unfermented toddy is a good food?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am sorry I have not used toddy or arrack in my life and therefore I am not in a position to say exactly the value of that commodity.

Mr. M. Govindan: The honourable member may take it from me that it is a good drink fit for the Gods.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I hope the honourable member will reach the level of the Gods by drinking toddy to his satisfaction.

I have brought to the notice of the Government about a good deal of smuggling which occur in different parts of Travancore. I have myself observed that the Commissioner has done a good deal to prevent smuggling. These unlicensed shops are also indulging in a kind of smuggling. I hope the Commissioner will give particular attention to remove the defect.

There is one more thing I have to say and that is with regard to salt. One honourable member was saying that the salt licensees are making fairly good profit and another honourable member was saying that their income should be raised. I have been feeling that salt which is a monopoly of the Government should be taken under the direct control of the Government. But I find from the Budget that monopoly is now changed into a modified form.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*): സർ, ആ ളായ വർദ്ധനവുകൊണ്ടും ഭരണപരമായ കാര്യക്ഷമതകൊണ്ടും ഇതര ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് ഒരു മാതൃ കയായി വന്നിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് അതിന്റെ ഭരണമേധാവിയെ ഞാൻ അനുമോദിക്കുന്നു. എന്റെ സ്നേഹിതരായ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെംബറ ന്മാർ പ്രസ്താവിച്ച പല സംഗതികളെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ആവർത്തിച്ച പറയണമെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. കീഴ് സിൽബന്ധികളുടെ അഴിമതി നിറുത്തണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനമായ സംഗതി. ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ എക്സൈസ് കമ്മീഷണർ അവർകളുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ സ വിശേഷമായി പതിഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ നാനാ ഭാഗത്തുള്ള ഷാപ്പുകളുടെ പരിസരങ്ങളിൽ പല ഉപഷാപ്പുകളുമുണ്ട്. ഈ ഉപഷാപ്പുസമ്പ്രദായം നിറുത്തിയാൽ കീഴ്ദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ അഴിമതി അവസാനിക്കുന്നതാണ്. ഈ വിഷയത്തിലും കമ്മീഷണരുടെ ശ്രദ്ധ പതിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു സന്തോഷാവഹമാണ്. എന്നാലും കുറെ ക്കൂടി ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. കീഴ്ദ്യോഗ സ്ഥന്മാരുടെ ശമ്പളക്കുറവിനെപ്പറ്റി സംസാരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവർ കൈ

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ക്ലിക്കാരാണെന്ന പറയുന്ന ഒരു പതിവുണ്ട്. ഇതിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനായി അവരുടെ ശമ്പളം അൽപംകൂടി കൂട്ടേണ്ടതാണ്. ഉപ്പിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്താവിച്ചതു കേട്ടതിനാൽ അതിന്റെ ഇതരവശങ്ങളേയും കുറിച്ച് ചർച്ച ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നില്ല. ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളിൽ ഏറ്റവും അത്യാവശ്യമായ ഈ സാധനത്തിന്റെ വില ക്രമാതീതമായി വർദ്ധിക്കാതിരിക്കാൻവേണ്ടി അതിന്റെ ഉല്പാദനം വിപുലമാക്കണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : Sir, I thank the honourable members for the various matters discussed in relation to this Department and the various suggestions given as also for the kind words in which they referred to the work of this Department. It is certainly gratifying to note that honourable members faced the problem of toddy consumption in a reasonable manner and had no abhorrence from academic considerations.

Mr. Mohamed Ismail (*Nominated*) : Not allthe members.

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : I mean those members who were kind enough to express their opinion in regard to that.

Reference was made to the number of trees tapped. It has been the constant policy of this Department, followed by the officers of the Department, at least for the last three years, to increase the number of trees. That has been one of the sources of increase of revenue. About the number of Choondapana trees to which reference was made, the figures are as follows. In 1115 there were only 18,492 trees ; 1116—23,619 ; 1117—25,035 and during the ten months of 1118 the number is 31,703. While the Department is trying its best to increase the number of trees, there are some fundamental difficulties. There is naturally a limit to the number of trees available. After the labour exodus to Assam there has also been a fall in the number of tappers available and even where contractors were willing to engage tappers they find it difficult to get them. There is then the difficulty of food supply. The tappers want rice rather than toddy for food to climb up the trees. There is some limit in the supply of food. The contractors themselves are anxious to take up more trees for tapping because that would mean more toddy and more profit to them. Therefore I may assure the House that this aspect of the administration of Department has not been lost sight of. On the other hand, it has been constantly noticed and full advantage has been taken of that source of income.

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Reference was made by some honourable members to unlicensed shops still functioning. I am not aware of that, and wherever it was brought to my notice, it has been stopped.

Mention was made by one or two honourable members about the transfer of the Excise Guards, that they should be posted in their own places and that they should be allowed to live in their own houses as far as possible. There is one difficulty with regard to that. It is not possible to find sufficient guards belonging to Devicolam, Arukutty or Parur frontier regions where we want more guards than in other places, and where, to safeguard the interests of customs revenue more guards have been sanctioned than in other places. Secondly, it is not to the advantage of the department to have these guards posted in their villages. These guards doing work in the units have no office to go except the Range Office. They will be on patrol work and there will be only one Preventive Officer to check their work. If they are living in their houses, as I often find, they attend more to their own business than departmental work. So, other things permitting, I am rather inclined to transfer them from their villages than give them work in their own places as suggested by the honourable member.

It was mentioned that the price of salt now was rather high and that there was more decent margin of profit given to the licensees. On this matter, there was difference of opinion in the House itself. Because of the increase in the price of all essential items and in the cost of labour, the licensees requested Government for increasing the price of salt which was the only item the price of which did not go up. Government considered all the aspects, looked into the rates prevailing in the neighbouring British Indian Province and Cochin, and have recently published certain rates and I may assure the House that the rates now fixed are the most reasonable, considering all the circumstances.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai: ഒരു മന്ത് ഉപ്പ് ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിന് എത്ര ചെലവു വരുമെന്നു പറയാൻ മയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: ഓരോ സമയത്തെ കൂലിനിരക്കിനേയും സാധനങ്ങളുടെ വിലയേയും അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയിരിക്കും.

Mr. Kalloor Narayana pillai: കരാളുടെ കൂലിദിവസേന എന്തായിരിക്കും?

Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan: സാധാരണ ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു മന്നിന് ചിലവ് ഏഴു അണ വരെ ആകും. ചിലപ്പോൾ അതിൽ കൂടുതലും ആയേക്കാം. ആളുകളുടെ കൂലിയെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ അറിവില്ല.

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[Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan.]

So, I may assure the House that the present price is not ou of proportion to the price of all other things here or the price salt in other neighbouring places.

Reference was made to the need for increasing the number working months. Working months had to be limited and fix because of the excess salt available here. Under the rules, salt not permitted to be stored for more than four years. If there any balance of salt more than four years old, it will have to be pus ed back into the water. That will mean loss of labour and money It is only to keep down the surplus that such restrictions of manu facture have been found necessary. Whenever it is foun that surplus stocks are diminishing or any good use could b made of such stock, then permission will be given by Governme for increasing the number of working months.

Reference was made to the utilisation of salt for manure. No the duty due to Government on salt is an important item of r venue and any arrangement for the utilisation of duty free salt fo manure cannot be permitted if it would prejudice the revenue du to Government. So, under the rules passed in 1939 *Bona fid* agriculturists are permitted to get salt free of duty only unc certain conditions. If they apply through the Agricultural Depar ment all that is possible will be done to meet their requirement I can assure the House that more salt was made use of this year f this purpose than in the previous year. Subject to the condition necessary for safeguarding Government revenue there will be n difficulty to get salt for manurial purposes.

With regard to the customs revenue one or two matters ha been mentioned. One honourable member referred to a villa outside the Aramboly Customs House. This Customs House w continuing in its present site for a number of years ever since was established. It is a fact that there are more restrictions no than before, because of the present food situation.

The difficulties mentioned in the matter of export of cat have been brought to the notice of the local authorities and arrang ment has been made whereby these people are permitted to ta cattle through chowkeys, after giving an undertaking that they w be taken back. Some other arrangements are being made by t local revenue officers in regard to food supply. Short of shiftin the chowkey, whatever arrangement is possible or necessary, will done with regard to the people living just outside chowkey.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: May I know whether import articles like Nuxvomica, eggs etc. are being exported without pa ing any duty ?

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Mr. P. G. Narayanan Unnithan : There are many duty free items like that. All items exported from the State are not levied to duty. But a *cess* is levied on eggs.

The question that Government be granted a sum of rupees 19,12,591 under Demand I—Excise was put and carried.

The grant was made.

Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi (*Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 10,56,524 under Demand—II Land Revenue and Taxes on Income.

Mr. E. K. Kuryipe (*Parur, Kunnatnad and Muvattupuzha cum Devicolam*) സർ, ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ലാൻഡ റവന്യൂ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട മെൻറുവഴി വിതരണം ചെയ്യുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ ദിവാൻജിഅവർകൾ ചെയ്യുന്ന ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ പരിശ്രമങ്ങളെ പ്രശംസിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. താലൂക്ക് അധികാരികളും റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും പല സാധുക്ക ളും പട്ടിണികിടന്നു വിഷമിക്കുന്ന ഇക്കാലത്തു ഒരു നിയന്ത്രണമില്ലാ തെ കാര്യങ്ങൾ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതിനു വിഷമമാണ്. ഈ നി യന്ത്രണത്തിൽ അശേഷം സൗജന്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാണിക്കരുതെന്നാ ണ് എൻെറ അഭിപ്രായം. അതിനു യോഗ്യനായ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ നെ – ഒരു ആശാനെ – തന്നെ നിയമിച്ചതിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിനെ പ്രശം സിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. നെല്ലു വാങ്ങുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഒരു കാര്യം നോക്കാനുണ്ട്. ഭക്ഷണസാധനവിതരണകാര്യത്തിലും ഗവ ണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ശ്രദ്ധ കൂടുതൽ പതിയണം. ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ വി ളവു ശരിയായി ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലെങ്കിൽ തന്നെയും പ്രവർത്തികാരന്മാർ ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിശ്ചയിച്ച കോട്ട അനുസരിച്ചു നെല്ലു ഈടാക്കുന്ന തിനു കർഷകരെ നിർബന്ധിക്കുന്നതായി എനിക്കറിയാം. ഇപ്രകാ രമാകയാൽ കൃഷി ഇല്ലാതെവരും. നിലം വേറെ ആളുകളെ ഏൽ പ്പിക്കാമെന്നുവച്ചാലും ഫലമിതുതന്നെ. കൃഷിക്കാക്ക് ആവശ്യ പ്പെടുന്ന നെല്ലു കൊടുക്കണം. അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ ന്മാരെ വച്ചുതന്നെ കൃഷി ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിവരും. റവന്യൂ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ ന്മാർ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉൽപ്പാദിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ വളരെ അശ്രദ്ധ പ്രദർശിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ദിവാൻജിഅവർകൾ രണ്ടുമൂന്നുകൊ ല്ലക്കാലമായി പല തരത്തിലുള്ള ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ നാട്ടിൽ ഉൽപ്പാ ദിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു കൊടു ക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ കീഴുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അതുമാതിരി ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കപ്പ മുതലായവ രണ്ടുമൂന്നു കൊല്ലക്കാലമായി കൃഷിചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരുന്ന പല സാധുക്കളേയും ബലാൽക്കാരമായി ഇറ

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[Mr. E. K. Kuryipe.]

ക്കിവിടുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള സാധുക്കളെ ഇറക്കി വിട്ടതിനുശേഷം ഈ തരിശുഭൂമികൾ ലേലം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ അവയെ പണക്കാരാണു പിടിക്കുന്നതു്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴതാലൂക്കിൽ അനേകം സാധുക്കൾ, ഇപ്രകാരമുള്ള തരിശുഭൂമികളിൽ കപ്പ കാച്ചിൽ മുതലായവ കൃഷിചെയ്തു പെറുകടിലുകൾകെട്ടി താമസിക്കുന്നവരെ റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ നിർദ്ദയം ഇറക്കി വിടുന്നുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ കണ്ണുനീരിന്റെ ഫലമായിട്ടാണു് യുദ്ധം ഉണ്ടായതെന്നുകൂടി ഇവ ദയനീയമായ അവസ്ഥയെ കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടു ചിലർ പറയുന്നുണ്ട്. അതുപോലെ തന്നെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചു ചില ആളുകളെ ചില സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കയറ്റിട്ടുണ്ട്. കൃഷി അനുഭവത്തിലാകുമ്പോൾ അവരെ ഇറക്കിവിടുന്ന പതിവു് വളരെയുണ്ട്. തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാർക്കു് ഏലകൃഷി ചെയ്യാനുള്ള അവസരം കൊടുത്തതു് ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജി അവർകളാണു്. കൃഷിക്കു് സൌകര്യവും കൊടുത്തിട്ടു കൃഷിചെയ്യുമനുഭവത്തിൽ വന്നപ്പോൾ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അവരെ ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു വളരെസങ്കടമാണു്. ഹൈക്കോർട്ടുജഡ്ജിമാക്കും മറ്റു വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കും അനുവാദം കൂടാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാമെന്നും, സാധുക്കളായ ആളുകൾക്കു് അപ്രകാരം പ്രവേശിക്കാനോ, അവർക്കു് നാലോ അഞ്ചോ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനോ പാടില്ല എന്നുപറയുന്നതു് വളരെ സങ്കടകരമായ അവസ്ഥയാണു്.

President: Does the honourable member suggest that the High Court Judges have pestered Government with petitions?

Mr. E. K. Kuriype : സർ, എനിക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ദാക്ഷിണ്യത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാനുള്ളതു് ഒരു ഹൈക്കോടതിജഡ്ജി അനുവാദംകൂടാതെ ഗവണ്മെൻറുസ്ഥലത്തു പ്രവേശിക്കുമ്പോൾ അതു കുറേകരമല്ലാതേയും മറ്റു സാധുക്കൾ പ്രവേശിക്കുമ്പോൾ കുറേകരമായും വരുന്ന സങ്കടകരമായ വസ്തുതയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അനുമതി പാളിസി ഗവണ്മെൻറുഭൂമിയിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചാൽ അതു അവർക്കു കൂടുതൽ കരംപുമുത്തി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയാണു്. കുറേയാളുകൾക്കു കൊടുക്കുകയും മറ്റു സാധുക്കൾക്കു കൊടുക്കാതിരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു സങ്കടമാണു്. സ്പെഷ്യൽകേസായി ഇപ്രകാരം കുറേ ഭൂമികൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതായി അറിവില്ല. ഇന്നത്തെ ദിവാൻജിയെ ആളുകൾക്കു വളരെ പേടിയാണു്. സാധുക്കളെ ഇപ്രകാരം ഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കാൻ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പ്രേരിപ്പിച്ചില്ലായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിൽ അനുവാദം ലഭിക്കാതെ ഈ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ആളുകൾ പ്രവേശിച്ചു് കൃഷിചെയ്യുകയില്ലായിരുന്നു. ഭൂമികൾ പ

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തിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയില്ല എന്നുള്ള പുതിയ ഉത്തരവു വരുന്നതിനുമുമ്പുതന്നെ വലിയ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും സാധുക്കളും ഭൂമികളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും സാധുക്കളെ വസ്തുവിൽനിന്നും ഇറക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്ന നയം നീതികരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ല. അതുപോലെതന്നെ അഞ്ചുകൊല്ലം മുമ്പു് അപേക്ഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതായ പലതാളുകൾക്കും പതിവു പൂർത്തിയാകാതെ കിടപ്പുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിനുശേഷം അപേക്ഷിച്ചവരുടെ പതിവു പൂർത്തിയായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എല്ലാവരും മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ പ്രജകളല്ലേ? എല്ലാവരോടും ഒരുപോലെ പ്രവർത്തിക്കാത്തതു എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നതു്. സർ, ഇനി ഭൂമികൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയില്ല എന്നുള്ള ഗവൺമെൻറിന്റെ പോളിസിയെ ഞാൻ എതിർക്കുന്നില്ല.

President : I think, I know the case which the honourable member has in mind. The policy of this Government is not to register any land to anybody. The High Court Judge and his brother referred to keep certain lands under the old rules. They were entitled to certain advantages before the policy of Government was enunciated, and therefore they could not retrospectively be deprived of those lands. No High Court Judge will hereafter get any registry in his name.

Mr. E. K. Kuryipe : എനിക്കു താഴ്മയായിട്ടു ഒന്നുകൂടി ഗവൺമെൻറിനെ ധരിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ളതു് എന്തെന്നാൽ ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു പോളിസി ഗവൺമെൻറിനുള്ളപ്പോൾ അതായതു് ഒരു പ്രത്യേക സ്ഥലം തിരുവിതാംകൂർകാക്കു ഏല്പിക്കുവാൻ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനായി കഴിച്ചിടുകയും, അതിലേയ്ക്കുണ്ടാക്കിയ ചട്ടത്തിൽ അനുവാദം ലഭിക്കുന്നതിനു മുമ്പായി പ്രവേശിച്ചാൽ നടപടി കർശനമായി പ്രവേശിക്കുന്ന കാലം മുതൽ ഈടാക്കുമെന്നു മാത്രമുള്ള വ്യവസ്ഥ വ്യക്തമാക്കുകയും ചെയ്തതിനുശേഷം ആ വ്യവസ്ഥകളനുസരിച്ചു് അധികാരമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പതിവുനടപടികൾ നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയും ചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ആക്കാര്യം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നതു് ആരുതന്നെ പ്രവേശിച്ചാലും അവരെക്കൊണ്ടെല്ലാം ഭൂമി പതിച്ചുകിട്ടുമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇപ്രകാരം പ്രവേശിച്ചവരിൽ നാലും അഞ്ചും ഏക്കറിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ച സാധുക്കളെ പ്രവേശനം ഒഴിപ്പിക്കുകയും ൨൫൦-൦ മുതൽ ൫൦൦-൦ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം കൈവശം വച്ചിരുന്നവരുടെ പേരിൽ യാതൊരു കേസുമെടുക്കാതെ അവർക്കുതന്നെ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കയും സാധുക്കൾ ഇറങ്ങിപ്പോകുമ്പോൾ വലിയ അളുകൾ അനുഭവിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്ന വസ്തുത വളരെ സങ്കടകരമാണു്.

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President : The honourable member will kindly bring these cases to the notice of Government because, Government policy is unequivocal and that is, no registry will be made in Travancore to anybody, high or low, until further orders.

Mr. E. K. Kuryipe : ഇതുപോലെതന്നെ കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നുള്ള പദ്ധതിയെ റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ശരിയായി അനുസരിച്ചു കാണുന്നില്ല. ഓരോ താലൂക്കിലെ തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരും ഭക്ഷണസാധനം ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കു സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുകയും, കൃഷിക്കാവശ്യമായി കാണുന്ന റോഡു, തോട് മുതലായവ ഉണ്ടാക്കുകയും, പുതിയതരത്തിലുള്ള കൃഷികൾ ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു നൽകുകയും ചെയ്യണമെന്നുകൂടി എനിക്കൊരഭിപ്രായമുണ്ട്. ധാരാളം തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പലതരത്തിലുള്ള കൃഷികൾ ചെയ്യാവുന്നവയായി കിടപ്പുണ്ട്. റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ആരുംതന്നെ യാതൊരു പ്രചരണവും ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. അവർക്കു ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ യാതൊരു ചുമതലയുമില്ലെന്നാണു പറയുന്നതു്. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കണമെന്നു ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ ജനങ്ങളെ പ്രേരിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പൊതുജനങ്ങളോടു് ഈ വിഷയത്തിൽ സഹകരിക്കുന്നില്ല. വളരെ അധികം തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വെറുതെ കിടപ്പുണ്ടു്. അവയ്ക്കു തുകപ്പാട്ടമായിട്ടോ മറ്റുതരത്തിലോ കൊടുക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നില്ല. കൃഷിക്കു പറ്റിയതായ പല തരിശുഭൂമികളും ഞാൻ കാണിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാം. റവന്യൂഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരോടു ചോദിച്ചാൽ "ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ യാതൊരധികാരവുമില്ലെ"ന്നാണു് അവർ പറയുന്നതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു തഹശീൽദാരന്മാരും ഡിവിഷൻ പേഷ്കാരന്മാരും അതാതു സ്ഥലത്തുള്ള തരിശുസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ കൃഷിക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ നൽകണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ഗവൺമെൻറിനോടപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഉദാഹരണമായി ദേവികുളം താലൂക്കിൽ നമുക്കു് ആവശ്യമുള്ളിടത്തോളം പണ്ടുമുതല്ലു കൃഷിചെയ്യാവുന്നതായി വളരെയധികം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കിടപ്പുണ്ടു. ദിവാൻജി അവർകൾ തന്നെ ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ മറ്റു പല കൃഷികളും ചെയ്യാമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഞാനും അവിടെ കുറെ സ്ഥലം വാങ്ങി കൃഷി ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരിൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ആരും സന്ദർശിക്കുകപോലും ചെയ്യുന്നില്ല. റിസർവുവനങ്ങളിൽതന്നെ ധാരാളം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ ഉല്പാദിപ്പിക്കുന്നവയായി ഉണ്ടു്. മൂവാറ്റുപുഴ, കുന്നത്തുനാടു് ഈ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ കൃഷി ചെയ്യാൻ കൊള്ളാവുന്ന ധാരാളം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൃഷിചെയ്യാതെ

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കിടപ്പുണ്ട്. വനങ്ങളിലുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൃഷിക്കുവേണ്ടി കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു കൺസർവേറ്റർ അവർകളെ അധികാരപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ വേണ്ടത്ര സ്ഥലം കൊടുക്കുന്നില്ല. ഭക്ഷണസാധനങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്ന വിഷയത്തിൽ വളരെയധികം ഉത്സാഹിക്കുന്ന ഒരുവനാണു ഞാൻ. ഇതിനുള്ള സൗകര്യം എല്ലാ ജനങ്ങൾക്കും ലഭിക്കുന്നതിന് ഗവർമ്മെൻറു വേണ്ട നിർദ്ദേശങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്ന് അപേക്ഷിക്കുന്നു. ഭക്ഷണസാധനവിതരണം സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഇന്നു നിലവിലിരിക്കുന്ന ചട്ടങ്ങളെ ഭേദപ്പെടുത്തരുതെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഈ ചട്ടമനുസരിച്ചു പല ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരും പ്രവർത്തിക്കാതിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അവർക്കു കൊടുക്കുന്ന ശിക്ഷ പോര. ശിക്ഷ വളരെ കുറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നു. ജനങ്ങളുടെ ഇടയിൽ, ആരായിരുന്നാലും ശരി, ഗവർമ്മെൻറനുവാദംകൂടാതെ ഒരുമണി അരിയോ നെല്ലോ ബ്ലാക്കുമാർക്കറ്റിൽ വില്പന നടത്തുന്നതിനു അനുകൂലിക്കുന്ന ഏതൊരുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെയോ, അനുദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെയോ വെടിവച്ചാലും തരക്കേടില്ല എന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതു സംശയമാണ്. ദിവാൻജിയവർകൾ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്.

President: If there has been any occasion in which subordinate officials, according to the honourable member, have directly or indirectly infringed the rules, or made the Government infringe the rule, if the honourable member will bring that to the notice of Government, they will take the necessary action. I give that undertaking.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja (*Edavaga*): Sir, I support his Demand. But I have to point out that I am not in whole-hearted agreement with the proposed new taxation. During the settlement the land tax was originally fixed on the basis of income from each agricultural holding. Hence to propose an additional taxation is to tax the same land twice. I appreciate the fact that this measure is only an experiment to know whether a transition could be made from land tax to income tax so that land tax may ultimately be abolished. But on principle the imposition of the new tax without abolishing the land tax cannot be justified.

Perhaps it is justifiable to impose this new tax on large industrial concerns like Rubber and Tea Plantations which, due to the present abnormal conditions of war, are making very large incomes.

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But as soon as war is over there may be deflation and consequently prices of commodities may go down. It may then not be possible to run these estates economically. So then the imposition of this tax will be very hard and Government may not get any appreciable income. Barring those estates the average tax payer may be severely hit by the proposed income tax. I am aware of the fact that the poor is not to be taxed and the statutory minimum is fixed at Rs. 5,000. But I have to point out that in the case of big families with many members, they will find it hard if this measure is adopted. Supposing there are 50 members in a joint family with an annual income of Rs. 10,000. In that case if a *per capita* division is made, each member may be entitled to Rs. 2,00 annually.

President: The honourable member will find out that such a thing will be prevented. Partition will not affect that taxation. But special facilities will be given for the purpose of bringing consolidation.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja: I am glad to hear that. I only wish that concession should be shown to joint families that is all. With these words, I have great pleasure to support the Demand.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, I support the demand. At the same time I desire to bring to the notice of this House a few points which I think are of importance. I may refer, firstly, to the question of markets. There are about 600 and odd markets of which one-half or a little less than one-half come under public markets. My complaint is that these markets are not kept in a sanitary condition. They are not kept clean and fit for human use. The markets are bringing a very large income to the Government. I see that the lease of public markets brings to the Government a sum of more than 1 lakh of rupees. But in order to keep the markets fit for human use only a sum about Rs. 7,000 is spent. In 1117 a lesser sum than the previous year was spent. If any one goes to a public market he can see that the market is kept as nothing better than a latrine. It is unfit for people to congregate. Any Health Officer may find that it cannot be used for storing vegetables and other articles. Such articles of food are brought and left on the floor. They are contaminated before being sold to the public. I would suggest that provision should be made immediately for constructing stalls with concrete flooring.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether the honourable member knows that the conditions of markets other than municipal markets are also the same ?

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Mr. James Fletcher : I am speaking of all the markets. The flooring should be so made that it can be cleaned every day and kept in a sanitary condition.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : May I know whether the honourable member is aware that according to the Markets Act the revenue from markets is not to be credited as receipts but has to be spent for the improvement of the markets.

Mr. James Fletcher : Yes, that is what the Act was intended for.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai : Am I to understand that the member is of opinion that the Government are violating the provisions of the Act ?

Mr. James Fletcher : Yes.

Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi : Will the honourable member be pleased enlighten the House about the particular section of the Act which he is referring to ?

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, it is the intention.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : The honourable member has not answered the question.

Mr. Jams Fletcher : I am not bound to answer the question.

President : Order, order. The honourable member will take his own course.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : The honourable member has not—

President : If the honourable member is desirous of putting a question, he has to rise from the seat so that the other member may yield his place.

Mr. James Fletcher : To collect the money necessary for keeping the markets tidy, that Act and Rules were passed.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know whether the Public Health Department is not there to see that the markets are kept in a sanitary condition ?

Mr. James Fletcher : The Public Health Department has got the right to inspect the markets, but the department that collects the money ought to keep them in a sanitary condition. It is the Revenue Department.

Apart from the public markets, the private markets are also kept in an indifferent and careless way. If the Government will be pleased to show the way for better and proper conditions in the public markets, then I am sure the privat makets will also follow suit.

I may also suggest one thing when I am at the question of markets. In South Travancore, we have the markets working during the whole day, so much so many of the people who go to the

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[Mr. James Fletcher.]

markets want to drink water. Unfortunately many of the public markets have no provision for drinking water. No good well, no supply of good water, is provided in these markets. They have to drink bad water which some-times brings infectious diseases. I would urge on the Government to see that every facility is given to the supply of good drinking water to the people who go to the markets especially as these people are poor and uneducated.

Then I wish to refer to porambokes.

President: You have got three minutes more.

Mr. James Fletcher: A large number of cases are taken against people who are occupying lands near the hilly districts. I am not referring to North Travancore. In South Travancore such lands are available and Government are prepared to allow these people to cultivate in order to increase food production. Of course I do not support anybody who encroaches upon Government lands and unauthorisedly occupies them. But the present conditions are such that there is necessity for increasing the amount of food in Travancore.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether my honourable and learned friend is aware that there are poachers even in Municipal areas?

Mr. James Fletcher: It is not a question of poachers. I am referring to the necessity of increasing food materials in Travancore. Wherever it is found that there is unauthorised occupation of poramboke lands, the occupants may be permitted to occupy the lands on kuthagapattom at least till the end of the war. (*President's bell.*)

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I did not wish to speak at first, but in the course of the discussion certain observations were made which make me speak on the subject. I am glad that Government have adopted a stiff policy, which is in contrast with the plaintive policy of those who were trying to deal with the problem previously. I am glad that the Government are not registering the lands which some have trespassed upon and that they are proposing to give the very same land in the case of the trespassers who perhaps call for special treatment. I am glad that certain exceptions were made in the case of the depressed classes.

President: That is not quite accurate. The depressed classes who have no other shelter are allowed to occupy the lands.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Yes, Sir. On humanitarian grounds also, that policy can be justified. All of us are aware that in this land there are certain social workers, philanthropists and people who deliver Sunday homilies regarding the rights of the poor. All these people are abetting the trespass into lands and there is a relation between their cry for registry of

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land and the tempo of agitation for communal representation. I understand that many people have lowered the tempo of their agitation for communal representation knowing that the vital thing on which they depended for all their strength and for their unhealthy agitation, they got from the land. I am glad that the Government have taken up the attitude that they have adopted and I wish an officer of the status of a Division Peishkar may be specially deputed to look into the question of trespasses and the question of granting kuthagapattom to deserving cases of very poor folk irrespective of the community or religion to which they belong.

Then the question of food production was raised. I do not believe in over-taxing the revenue officers. I think it is possible for Government to appoint a special officer to go into the question of food production, not often referring to the Financial Secretary, then to the Account Officer and so on. We will have to meet the war situation with more rough and ready measures, If this is to be made possible, a man must be selected of the status of an Executive Engineer and asked to go round the country, advance amounts to the *bona jide* cultivators, open small irrigation canals, restore tanks etc. In that way he may be able to do something. Let him have statutory powers. Let him be deputed for a year. Let him send daily reports. I again repeat the request that he must have complete freedom in regard to the food production in this country. We are not going to enhance the production by homilies on production. While dealing with food situation it is the question of production that is not always emphasised. Unless Government do something in the direction I suggested I am afraid the food situation will remain much more serious after nine months than it is to-day.

I am glad that my learned and honourable friend Mr. James Fletcher has opened the topic of the situation in municipal markets. On going round the markets, I also view that they need looking into by the Public Health authorities. I am sure, before the Session is out my honourable and learned friend will be able to enlighten the House as to the section or the Act which compels the Government to spend all the revenues collected from the markets on the markets themselves. Sir, can I speak about District Magistrates now?

President: In so far as their revenue functions are concerned, you can speak on them.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: It is time for Government to consider the question of the appointment of a Land Revenue Commissioner. This is a small State to have a

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[Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi.]

Board of Revenue. I think the Government themselves feel the difficulty of getting expert opinion in matters relating to food production, markets, etc. For co-ordinating the work of the Peishkars and for following a continuous policy, it is better that the post of the Land Revenue Commissioner is again created. From another point of view also it is certainly not conducive to the good administration, if the Secretariat assumes the administrative powers. The detachment of the Government in regard to the working of departments will be lost. The Chief Secretary is an able man, no doubt. He might be able possibly to take up the work of more departments. But the question is Government wants detached opinion. Is it possible under the new system? Of course, justifying himself the high salary he is receiving he will be working in a public spirited manner willing to take the work of several departments. But it is cruel to extract work from him like that.

Mr. A. T. S. Kaderbhoy (*Commerce and Industry South*): I wish to make some suggestions in regard to the registry of land. Sir, there are certain Government lands which have been occupied many, many years ago and still they are not registered in the name of the occupants and they have been served with demand notices to pay the tharavila and then make registry in their names. But due to present conditions and on account of shortage of funds they may be given some time to pay the tharavila in full and register the lands in their names.

Then regarding food supplies and income tax on agricultural income. Sir, suggestions have been made that there should be no income tax on agricultural income. I cannot understand why that should be the case. Sir, the trading class, the small merchants, the officers and other people who are getting income above the prescribed limits are taxed. They have to pay land tax, income tax and other taxes. I do not understand how if these persons can pay land tax and other taxes simultaneously the agriculturists should not pay tax for the income they make out of the lands. I say agricultural income may be brought to the same level as the other income for income tax for purposes of taxation. There should not be any difference between these two taxes. It may be said that they are paying taxes on land and so they should not be taxed on the income derived from land. I would suggest Sir, that if these lands are converted for industrial and other purposes we will have to pay the income tax at the prescribed rates. So I think it is necessary that the agricultural income should also be brought to the same level for purposes of taxation.

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Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I also support the demand. This time last year, when I spoke on this demand I desired enlightenment from the Treasury Benches on certain matters, but which remaining unanswered, I wish to repeat this time as well. Firstly I want to know whether the income of the South Indian Railway Company above the taxable minimum is assessed to income tax. Secondly whether the income of the Post and Telegraph Departments, which are absolutely business concerns conducted by the Secretary of State for India for profit and gain, derived from business transacted within our State is assessed or not. Lastly whether British Indian Officers permanently residing and working within this State and enjoing income above the taxable minimum are assessed to income-tax.

President: By what may be called mutual courtesy the British Government do not tax us, for instance, in regard to certain investments and enterprices carried on by this Government. Similarly we do not tax the Secretary of State for the trades carrried on by him. Similarly in the matter of port dues; our vessels do not pay port dues in British India and British vessels do not pay port dues here. These are done as a matter of courtesy.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I want to add a word to what the Honourable Member Mr. Fletcher referred to just now, *viz*: the income from the markets. It has been the declared policy of Government to spend the receipts from markets towards the keeping of the markets in proper condition, looking after the repairs and maintenance in time. Of late, the income from the markets is seen to be steadily mounting up and the expenditure towards their improvement as steadily dwindling. This year there is a decided increase of above Rs. 1000 in the receipts, but look at the expenditure. The total expenditure incurred during 1117 on account of permanent improvements was Rs. 6377 against Rs. 7044 in 1116. In other words receipts and expenditure is brought down year after year. This is regrettable. Let me also urge that the markets should be kept in sanitary condition and necessary improvements made in time.

There is one other matter which I want to bring to the attention of Government. Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi was reiterating, with added emphasis this year also, his cry for the resuscitation of the post of the Land Revenue Commissioner. The only argument he puts forward this time is that there should be a complete detachment of the proposed function of a Land Revenue Commissioner from the Secretariat and that a Secretary should not be allowed to function as the head of the Land Revenue administration. I would have fully acceded to his proposal for the resuscitation of that office,

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[Mr. T. Krishna Pillai.]

if there was anything to show that that abolition has in any way affected the work of the Land Revenue Department. As far as the percentage of collection and the disposal of appeals are concerned, there is, on the other hand, a decided increase from 1115, as is evidenced by the yearly Administration Report of the Department. So, I for one, do not see the necessity for the resuscitation of that superfluous and costly show.

There is another matter, Sir, which has been adverted to by a previous speaker, and of which I must say a word. No small praise is due to the Head of the Administration for initiating the policy of control and adumbrating all conceivable measures for checking hoarding and profiteering. Eminently laudable and praise worthy these measures, undoubtedly are, but for practical working, it cannot but be mentioned, if I am not called to order from the Chair, that these opened wide vistas for corruption not only among the.....

President: Order, order. Far from calling a Member to order, I have invited Honourable Members that if they have specific instances either of corruption, or of unfair or improper dealing, it would be a great help to Government and Government will specially appreciate any matter which is brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: To be frank, Sir, it is corruption bribery, jobbery, and nepotism of the officers responsible for the control and distribution work.

President: I must say, Mr. Krishna Pillai, that similar statements are generally made both on the platform and in the press here. But the number of specific cases that have been brought forward are surprisingly few. In fact, elsewhere Governments were rather taken to task for having proceeded on the basis of registered documents and acted against certain persons who entered into transactions of land during the period when the control was in existence. If Honourable Members have any specific cases—they need not even mention names, they need only say in such and such locality there is clandestine removal or black market or encouragement of black markets—Government would benefit by that counsel, given by responsible Members of this House.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: At any rate, Sir, it would be readily admitted on all hands, that, had it not been for the corrupt practices to which a handsome majority of our officers responsible for control, collection and distribution work have fallen an easy prey, these measures would not have ended in such a tragic failure. The Government are not unaware of this fact and it is highly gratifying that prompt and strong steps have been taken up

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by Government to bring the culprits to book. While thanking the Government for what they have done already in tackling the present problem of food production and distribution, I must urge, that in the matter of selecting men for the discharge of such onerous duties, character and pedigree must be the most important and prime considerations and other so-called claims and qualifications, must be subordinated to these.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pathanapuram cum Shencottah*): I am at one with my honourable friend who stated that the condition of the markets is not at all satisfactory. A very small portion only of the large amount collected, has been spent for improving the sanitary condition of these markets. It is more so in the case of vegetable and fish markets. They are scattered on all parts of the markets exposed to weather, dust and fleas. No Public Health Officer ever visits these markets, the vendors of these articles completely ignore the principles of hygiene. Hence I am not surprised to find contageous disease in their variety and intensity increasing in this country. As my friend Mr. Fletcher suggested, stalls must be provided with cemented floorings for keeping these things in the markets.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: During war-time?

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Yes. Another suggestion I have to make is about the distribution of agricultural loans. Whatever the reasons that weigh withed Government to stop these loans, they are at present an absolute and imperative necessity. It must be revived immediately.

President: I suppose the Honourable Member realises that the work has been really taken up by the Credit Bank which is very largely helped by the Government.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: But from the Administration Report I have found that no loans have been issued by this Bank. Perhaps the people are not aware of the fact that the Credit Bank is functioning for this purpose also. Mysore has issued a statement in which they have stated that a large amount is set apart for agricultural loans.

Mr. N. Krishna Iyer: I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that no agricultural loan application as such has been made to the Credit Bank but applications on loans on the security of the landed properties, have been received and the loans are being liberally given.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: There are many cases in which they stated the purpose of the loan to be

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[Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai.]

the improvement of agriculture and cultivation expenses. There are small loans made and that is the proposed object with which the agricultural bank has to function.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: It may perhaps to true that on former occasions these loans might not have been used for purposes for which they were taken. Now the condition is such that agriculturists really require financial help from the Government.

President: Order, order. The Credit Bank gives either a subsidy for agriculture or a loan on the security of agricultural property. The question of subsidy, of course, stands on a separate footing. The system of granting agricultural loans was either dilatory or unsatisfactory and some times both dilatory and unsatisfactory. The Credit Bank has been very definitely charged with the duty of examining all loan applications, not rejecting any application because it is too insignificant. The Bank will help agriculture, and also those engaged in cottage industries. And in order to enable the Bank to function more effectively, Government have extended the scope of its operations, given it the right to open current accounts to accept fixed deposits; and I know that many fixed deposits have been placed with the Credit Bank. I understand that the trouble with the Credit Bank is that there are not enough applications.

I will also make it perfectly clear that not only to extend the Agricultural loan policy of Government initiated in the past but in order also to enhance and to enlarge its scope, the Credit Bank has been founded with strong Government support, Government being willing to finance it to a very large extent to extend help to small as well as large agriculturists, to small as well as big industrialists, but preferably small agriculturists and cottage industries.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: People are under the impression that the Credit Bank exists for advancing loans for payment of debts and redeeming of mortgages. I thank the Government for clarifying the position and stating that it intends to advance loans for the agriculturists on the security of their properties.

Mr. K. G. Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I point out that the Credit Bank itself says that loans should be granted for cottage industries and for agriculture, and a number of other things. If Honourable Members would only read the Act before they comment upon these things, it would have been better.

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President : I trust that members connected with the Credit Bank will make the position clear. I understand that even now loans of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500 are dealt with by the Bank.

Does the Credit Bank decline applications for small loans ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : Absolutely no.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : Even loans of Rs. 300 were given last year.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : Members of this House might be aware of the transactions of the Credit Bank and most of them perhaps do not want any loan from it. But I can assure this House, that the general public, especially the agriculturists who are greatly in need of loans are ignorant of the fact that the Credit Bank will distribute loans to them also. Any how the fault lies with the Government in not giving wider publicity in this very important matter. This will explain the reason for not giving any agricultural loan in the last year.

President : That is not the reason now. Very few people want loans for agricultural purposes.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : Agriculturists really do need financial help. Although Government have surrendered 10,000 acres of land for agricultural operations, only 4,000 acres are taken actually by people for cultivation. I believe this is on account of the paucity of funds in their hands. Therefore I suggest that Government should lend money on the security of their agricultural holdings and also on crop war basis. They can also help poor ryots by means of subsidies. The Governments of Cochin, Hyderabad and Mysore are doing likewise.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : May I ask the honourable member to point out one single instance where agricultural loan was applied for and not granted properly ?

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : My honourable friend himself stated that no application has yet come for consideration. How can this question then arise ?

Mr. N. Krishnan Aiyar : No, there have come certain applications. And if more do not come, it is not the fault of the Bank.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai : It is due to the ignorance of the people about the matter. That leads to the question whether Government have properly advertised this matter.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : May I know from the honourable member whether it is his opinion that loans should be advanced by Government without receiving any interest ?

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Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Yes, agriculturists must be advanced loans without paying interest. This will be a great inducement to the poor ryots. That is done in Mysore. I would conclude by requesting Government to advance money to the agriculturists without taking interest during wartime.

President: What happened was that agricultural loans were granted for various reasons, very praise-worthy reasons, ostensibly but really for reasons like marriage and things of that kind. The honourable member may know that many applications were made, for purposes, stated to be of improvementof agriculture, purchase of manure, seeds, etc. But it was found that themoney so advanced was absolutely irrecoverable, and I think I am correct in saying that nearly 40% of the total advances by Government have become either wholly irrecoverable or partially irrecoverable. So far as industrial loans are concerned, of course, hundred per cent. were irrecoverable. The industrial loans were granted for any purposes other than industrial and people almost deliberately it seemed, did not even care to show that it was for industrial purposes. The money was borrowed and marriages were conducted and no industries were found to be helped. The loans were given in such a reckless manner that Government came to the conclusion that the Government department would no more be useful for that business. The necessity for strictness and careful scrutiny was disregarded and it was also found that the department was not above either communal or personal considerations. Having come to the conclusion that this department had done badly, Government have divested it of the responsibilities and constituted the Credit Bank for these purposes. And honourable members might have realised that, at the beginning, agricultural loans and industrial loans gave benefit to a certain number of people who took advantage of this financing and who then actually disappeared. The result of it all is that about 80% of our industrial loans have been written off. 80 to 85% of the total number of industrial loans have had to be written off because the department took no proper addresses of the persons who took these loans. Advances were given to people who did not exist! That was the state of things. I did not want to say all these things but the matter having come out, the position must be made clear and the Government came to the conclusion that the department was incapable of doing the work.

The House rose for lunch at 2 p. m.

Rajyasevapravina. K. P. Padmanabha Menon, Electrical Engineer to Government took the oath and signed the rolls.

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Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: Sir, I now wish to present another point. Village officers must be given training in Agriculture and in Rural Economy. They are now called upon to help the villagers in their daily work. They cannot perform their duties properly and effectively if they are not given sufficient training. I, therefore, suggest that in future, the appointment of Village staff must be made from those candidates who have undergone training in Agricultural Schools. There are now Survey Schools in the State. They exist mainly for the purpose of giving training in Elementary Survey. These schools can conveniently be stopped and Survey instructors can be appointed in the Agricultural Training centres. Thereby the candidates could gain sufficient knowledge in Elementary Survey also. By a change in the curricula of studies in these institutions, the Village officers can be given sufficient training in agriculture, co-operation and rural economy.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, supplementary to my observations on the general discussion of the budget regarding the imposition of a novel tax on income from agriculture resulting in the dual taxation of the land and its produce and thereby causing hardship to the planters and the agriculturists in general, I may point out one or two evil effects arising out of this system. One of them has already been adverted to by my friend Mr. Raja, *viz.*, that it may lead to disintegration and partition of estates. I am aware of the reply from you, Sir, that sufficient safeguards would be made to encourage consolidation and discourage partition.

Another evil effect is that the scheme may discourage large scale production and cultivation which is against the spirit of the 'grow more food' campaign on which all possible efforts have to be concentrated at this moment. So, my humble suggestion is that before the Government put this scheme into effect, the Government may appoint a committee consisting of officials and non-officials and also expert economists, if necessary, to go into this question deeply and submit a detailed report to Government on the lines on which this scheme may be embarked.

Secondly, I want to point out to Government the necessity for allowing certain grants by way of remission or concession to the ryots whose lands were commandeered by the Government for the purposes of cultivation. Lands which would normally have lain fallow were commandeered by the Government for the very laudable object of bringing every inch of possible ground under paddy cultivation. But, actually, the effect was not as desirable as it was intended to be. In the mode of bringing this scheme into operation, there were several irregularities which caused considerable hardships. I am giving these not by way of complaint

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar.]

but with a view to give information to the Government on such details so that they may be taken note of and avoided if similar processes are thought of in future. To start with, the Government thought it necessary to direct the two Peishkars to convene a meeting of the ryots. Accordingly a meeting was convened and its object explained, when the ryots pointed out the difficulties of bringing into cultivation new areas which were not to be cultivated normally. They also pointed out that it would not be quite economic. But, before the ryots could bring their points of difficulty to the notice of the Government the matter was rushed through, and even before the Gazette Notification reached them auctions were held without proper notice to the land owners. On account of this, some of the lessees themselves took advantage to defraud the owners, and such defrauded owners who were thus left without any field of their own were unable to take up direct cultivation. On the other hand, they were asked to pay the tax. The object of the Government would certainly be not to make a profit out of this transaction but only to encourage cultivation.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: Will the honourable member please explain that aspect of it, Sir, because that was not the understanding on which we proceeded?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: It was with a view to encourage the cultivations, to bring their fields into immediate cultivation, that the Government announced their intention to undertake the pumping. The idea therefore, was that dewatering would be done by the Government at Government cost in the cultivators' fields. Now, the pattom due to the Government.....

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: May I know what the average pattom that has been received by the Government is?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: It may range from half a pattom to two—

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: What is the average which usually the land owners get there?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: The land owners used to get during alternate years about double that obtaining in consecutive years.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether the rate of pattom has anything to do with the Government's receding from the original promise they gave?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: No, Sir. There is still another aspect to be considered. If, after meeting the dewatering charges, there is a surplus in the pattom realised by Government, should not that at least be credited towards the tax due on that land?

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Another irregularity was with regard to the D block. The auction of this field by Government was rushed through, at a time when the owners themselves were making adequate arrangement for cultivation. Then there were certain differences in regard to the acreage under cultivation. When these difficulties were brought to the notice of the Tasildar he said: "Have you brought this matter to the notice of the Electrical Department? They have to take their dues by way of pumping charges. So, you may refer the matter to them." This is a very serious difficulty now pending decision. The Government may take this matter also into consideration.

Now, ultimately, it cannot be said that such cultivation has been profitable. Though the total yield in the State might have increased, the cultivation operations were delayed for one reason or other, owing to want of good seeds, and scarcity of engines and of motors in cases where the dewatering could be done by electricity. When I mention engines and motors, I must also say that certain engines were removed prematurely, from certain fields, thus causing very serious inconvenience.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: May I point out for the information of the honourable member that in fact those responsible for the pumping arrangements, the non-officials engaged in that work, applied with insistency to the Government to send away the Birmingham engines to Cochin.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Of course, there might have been exceptional cases. We do not know what the real condition was. I am not stating all these things with a view to raise any complaint with regard to those matters, but with a view to see that these difficulties are avoided in future. Last year decisions were arrived at rather late. This year at least, arrangements should be made sufficiently early to bring every paddy field under cultivation. I know that there is a special officer for Kuttanad, an officer in whom Government and people have confidence. He is an exemplary officer, one who appreciates difficulties and who acts firmly and strongly. That officer should be empowered to deal with the situation in all its aspects and he should be given power to look into the details from the time of putting up of bunds till the harvest. He must be empowered to give contracts for putting up bunds, bailing water, and such other things. He must have power to deal with matters directly when they are brought to his notice. He should be empowered to pass orders at the spot on all matters relating to local requirements without reference to higher authorities because these things have to be settled very soon and executed without delay.

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Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: May I inform the honourable member that he is vested with all the powers under the Irrigation Act.

Mr. N. Krishna Iyer: I know that. I know that suggestions are called for from him. What I say is that he should be empowered to pass orders. It is necessary that the special officer should be assisted by a local committee of responsible men who know the local conditions so that they may be in a position to assist him.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: May I inform the honourable member that there is already a committee, the convener being Mr. Rama Aiyar.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: The function of that committee is the distribution of crude oil.

Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi: Sir, as one of the members constituting the committee of which Mr. Rama Aiyar is the convener, I may inform the House that the function of that committee is not merely the distribution of oil but that there are ever so many functions attended to by that committee which is humanly possible.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: But as far as I know, the main function of that committee is the distribution of crude oil. Perhaps official or non-official members may voluntarily do some laudable work. But if a committee is constituted by the Government to deal with these questions, then it will be more useful than voluntary help even if it be from good persons like Mr. Rama Aiyar. In fact my humble view is that the cause of the failure of the scheme this year is want of such a strong committee. It may perhaps be stated that the vesting of power on non-official bodies will not be advantageous. But if local committees are formed with a view to tackle this problem then it will be very useful both to the Government and the people alike.

With a view to encourage cultivation and also to alleviate the difficulties of several cultivators I wish to bring to the notice of Government the need for a slight enhancement in the rate of price of paddy. The present rate was fixed when the value of rice was Rs. 16 per bag. Now it has gone up to Rs. 25 and there is the prospect of it going up still higher. To say that the local producer shall not get anything more than the equivalent of Rs. 16 per bag will be unfair and unjustifiable. That aspect of the question may be sympathetically considered by the Government.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: May I inform the honourable member that rice which is imported into the country comes from Baluchistan and Punjab and the price of local paddy is fixed in relation to its price.

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Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : The price of imported rice may go still higher. I would suggest that the case of the local producers may be considered more sympathetically. After all we find that in spite of the restriction there is blackmarketing. Perhaps the enhancement in the price of local paddy may reduce black marketing to a considerable extent.

Then about the land policy of the Government.....

President : I am afraid the honourable member has exceeded his time. He may talk about it on the General Administration Demand.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : In addition to what has already been stated I would call the attention of the House with regard to two matters. One is with regard to the work of the Tahsildar. The Tahsildar is entrusted with the responsibility of distribution. He is entrusted with the responsibility of issuing permits for one thing or another. He has to travel around the pakuthies seeking information and giving directions. It is very difficult to get at the Tahsildar in his office. It is not because of his fault, it is because, of the various other things he has to attend to. Even while he is in the office he is besieged with ever so many persons that no work can be proceeded with. The Deputy Tahsildar seems to have no power to issue orders or permits. I have often been told by people that the Deputy Tahsildar refuses to issue permits or orders and it is very difficult to meet the Tahsildar in the office.

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : May I know the nature of the permit required ?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : Permits for sugar, for kerosene oil, for removal of paddy from one place to another and a hundred other odd things. I desire to suggest that the Deputy Tahsildar may be given more power, if possible. In a place like Tiruvella with really two taluks under the control of one Tahsildar he has too much work to attend to. The question as to whether additional hands could be employed for taluks of that kind where there are more work may be considered so that it could be done more expeditiously to the convenience of the people in those places.

The second point that I wish to draw the attention of the House is with regard to the land policy pursued by the Government. I, for my part, have not been able to follow this policy satisfactorily. One thing seems to be very necessary and that is the surveying of the places at the right time and quickly. The delay of the survey, to my mind, is the cause of most of these troubles. I am told that in certain places lands are surveyed within six or seven months while other places are not surveyed within five or six years. I know that in the taluk of Tiruvella while village roads have been taken over by Government about thirty years ago, the lands have

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not been surveyed and the villagers are still paying tax for those lands. The delay for the survey creates a lot of difficulties. People do not know whether they are encroaching on Government lands or not. If the survey had been conducted satisfactorily and in time much of these difficulties could have been avoided.

One more point I have to say and that is with regard to the supply of seeds. People of several pakuthies in Central Travancore complain that they do not get seeds. The Kanni crop is over and if we write to the supply officer the reply is "no seeds are available"; If somebody points out that seeds are available, then the reply would be "they cannot be given." It seems that the officers in charge of these things are not giving their time adequately to deal sympathetically with the people who are in need. They must be able at least to tell the people where from the seeds can be got; whether from within or without the State. A simple answer 'no' is very easy.

Mr. M. Govindan: I support the Demand. In doing so I wish to call the attention of the House and the Chair to two or three points which came up for discussion and one point which nobody touched. That one point is revenue sales. May I point out that in the case of revenue sales which are now very common and the notifications regarding which make the Travancore Government Gazette very voluminous, there are many cases of hardships. I refer particularly to cases of lands in the possession of mortgagors sold for arrears of tax still standing in the names of the mortgagees. The land is, in many cases, sold in revenue auction and purchased by some relation or close friend of the owner of the land.

President: The honourable member knows the land policy of Government. The thandaper holder is the person with whom Government have to deal. If the tandaper holder has mortgaged or alienated his interest the lessee or mortgagee has a special procedure prescribed for the purpose of getting notice in the case of sales or contemplated sales. If he does not take such steps, the mortgagors have to be sued after giving notice. Government have now arrived at a definite decision that the application of the mortgagee, who is unable to put himself on the record prescribed by the law, will not be considered and it is only the thandaper holder whose case will then be considered. As a matter of fact honourable members who have appeared before me on these matters know exactly the policy that has been laid down by Government. I would advise that this matter should be very widely known, namely, that unless the mortgagees or lessees take the necessary steps which are specially prescribed for the purpose of getting notice of arrears in respect of all sales, they will themselves have to find out the remedy if the properties are sold.

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Mr. M. Govindan: Sir, I am thankful to the Chair for the lucid explanatian of the position now with regard to mortgages. What I would respectfully place before the Government is this. In some cases, the mortgagees do not know the procedure. Of course, ignorance of law is no excuse. But there may be more publicity given of this procedure, so that mortgagees may take advantage of it.

President: I have disposed of over 500 cases of the mortgagees

Mr. M. Govindan: It so happens that this works a great hardship to the mortgagees.

President: I know it.

Mr. M. Govindan: So much with regard to the revenue sales. Then, with regard to the observation of my friend Mr. Tampi of the appointment of a Revenue Commissioner for Travancore. We have been doing without a Revenue Commissioner for more than fifty years previous to the appointment of such an officer twenty and odd years ago and we never felt any difficulty in that matter. The whole thing was sailing smooth. Somehow, about two decades ago, the idea came that, like every other department, the Revenue department must have one head. But the fact is that every Peishkar is a departmental head today. The Secretariat is dealing with matters connected with revenue as before the appointment of a Revenue Commissioner. It is true that my friend was saying in his usual jocose manner that the Peishkars were satraps. If there are four chotta satraps, you will be having a bada satrap in the office of the Revenue Commissioner. What I wish to say is that, a Peishkar can be viewed as a departmental head for purposes of revenue and the Secretariat will have its normal function of looking to all these matters. The dual capacity of headship and revenue supervision which were raised as an argument by my friend Mr. Tampi do not appeal to me at all, because, after all, the department instead of having one head, will be having four heads, that is all.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know from the member whether he is aware that the Land Revenue Commissioner and his staff were more concerned with the Administration Report of the Revenue Department and postings and transfers rather than effecting any administrative control over the Division Peishkars?

Mr. M. Govindan: That is alright. That only helps me in the argument that there was no particular gain in that appointment. So my considered view is that, there is absolutely no necessity for the appointment of a high paid Revenue Commissioner.

Now, in respect of agricultural loans; industrial loans and other loans, from the Credit Bank, there is one little difficulty which the

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Government can solve, perhaps very easily, and that is, with regard to the initial expenses necessary for getting a loan.

President: In what way?

Mr. M. Govindan: When a man puts in his application for loan, he has to meet some initial expenses in order to see whether the security offered by him is sound. That is of course unavoidable.

President: What percentage is it?

Mr. M. Govindan: 2 per cent. If a man goes without any money in his pocket and wants a loan, he is asked to pay 2 per cent just to see whether the security produced by him is sound. If it is found later on to be unsound, the man loses the money.

President: What would you suggest then?

Mr. M. Govindan: I have no constructive suggestion to make. I find that this 2 per cent payment is causing some difficulty. For instance, a responsible officer of Government is asked to determine the solvency of a particular man. Of course, I remember the observations from the Chair with regard to the work of Government servants in this aspect of the matter.

President: In addition to the other things, I afterwards remembered that in one remarkable case, there were two or three mortgages on a property included in the 30 cases of encumbrances. The Head of the Department who sanctioned the industrial loan said that the property is unencumbered. He said that to his knowledge the property is worth so much and on that knowledge the advance may be paid. The registration encumbrance certificates contained two or three mortgages. The officer still said "to my knowledge it is unencumbered and it is worth so much." On that advances were made. In the end, the whole loan had to be written off.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Was any action taken on the officer concerned?

President: He had retired. The question whether prosecution was possible was tried. But I do not think we got legal advice which enabled us to prosecute him.

Mr M. Govindan: What I submit to the Chair is that it might have been a case of one undesirable officer.

President: The whole point is this. Not only here, but from experience in other places, wherever agriculturel and industrial loans have been attempted to be vested in individual Government officers for disbursement, there has been either carelessness, or over-zealousness or under-zealousness. In fact the training of Government officers I am talking from the Dewan downwards—is against business habits and capacity. He is ever too busy otherwise to look

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into other things ; he is too preoccupied. Having had the painful experience of being a Bank Director myself, I know full well how unfit lawyers generally are as Bank Directors. I say that Government officers are equally unfit to be in this line. If a man has good practice, he cannot do this work. Similarly, if an officer is conscientious, his normal work will be so much that he may not have the time to go round and see to the solvency of the people and judge matters for himself. The whole thing is impossible. The Madras Government had suffered a great deal from its industrial policy, so much so, it has already given it up. The agricultural loan policy in Bengal was a fiasco and though it was a great man who was responsible for the starting of an agricultural policy, he himself had to confess his failure and as a result he has published a book recently in which it is said that he is unfit to do that. The whole thing therefore is a question of business capacity, commercial procedure and training and these cannot be found in Government servant.

Mr. M. Govindan : In the light of this observation, I do not think that I can make any useful suggestion in this matter. But the complaint remains and I leave it to Government to solve the difficulty.

One other point in which the Government had already made up its mind relates to puduval registry. Of course, Government have prohibited encroachments on Government lands and have declared their unambiguous policy of not registering lands trespassed in favour of the occupants. But when certain cases were pointed out by my friend on this side who thought that special considerations were shown, the matter was explained that the occupation was previous to the express prohibition and therefore equitable considerations must have been given for the registry of those lands in the names of those occupants. This declaration I consider to be very valuable in a large number of cases in Travancore, where, under the old rule it gave a sort of preference to persons who were the prior occupants of unassigned lands. That rule of preference was taken advantage of by persons within a particular date. What I would submit is, that that declaration may be made known to all and a complete list of prior occupants who were unobjectionably entitled to some special consideration may be made so that doubts on the points will become clear.

President : In the G. O. published recently, we have stated that lands of bona fide people that remain pending these formalities, should all be registered and I may inform the House that a large number of registries are taking place on that basis.

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Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഡിമാൻറിനേ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു സംഗതി മാത്രം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണമെന്ന് എനിക്കാഗ്രഹമുണ്ട്. പുറംപോക്ക് സ്ഥലത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുകയൊ സ്ഥലം കൈവശം വച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയോ ചെയ്യുന്നവക്ക് ആ സ്ഥലം പതിച്ചു കിട്ടുവാനുള്ള അവകാശം ഇല്ലെന്ന് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് പ്രഖ്യാപനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഫ ഠ ന്യ-ാമാണ്ട് ആണ് തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഡിമാർക്കേഷൻ റൂൾസ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയത്. ആ റൂൾ അനുസരിച്ച് കുടിപാർപ്പു ഇല്ലാതെയൊ കൃഷിക്ക് ഉപയോഗം യാതൊന്നുമില്ലാതെയൊ കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പുറംപോക്കുകളായി പരിഗണിക്കുമെന്നു ആ റൂളിൽ വ്യവസ്ഥയുണ്ട്. അക്കാലത്തു കുടിപാർപ്പില്ലാതെ കിടന്ന സർപ്പക്കാവുകളും ക്ഷേത്രസ്ഥലങ്ങളും പുറംപോക്കുകളായി റിപ്പോർട്ടിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തീട്ടുണ്ട്. ഒരു ഹിന്ദുവിന്റെ പുരയിടത്തിൽ, സർപ്പാരാധന നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ ചുറ്റും ഏതാനും വൃക്ഷങ്ങളും പിടിച്ചു കിടക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ സെറ്റിൽമെൻറ് പുറംപോക്കായി കാണിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ചില ക്ഷേത്രാരാധനസ്ഥലങ്ങളേയും പുറംപോക്കുകളാക്കീട്ടുണ്ട്. ചെങ്ങന്നൂരിൽ വണ്ടിമലഅമ്മൻകോവിൽ എന്നൊരു ക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ ആരാധന നടത്തിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നു. അവിടത്തെ പാവ്യക്കാർ ആ ക്ഷേത്രത്തിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചവരെ പുറംപോക്കിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു കുറ്റം ചുമത്തുകയും അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇങ്ങനെയായാൽ എന്തു രക്ഷയാണു? ക്ഷേത്രം കുടിപാർപ്പുള്ള സ്ഥലമല്ല. അതു ആരാധനാസ്ഥലമാണ്. അവയേ പുറംപോക്കായി കരുതി അതിലെ പ്രവേശനം നിരോധിക്കുകയും പ്രവേശിച്ചവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ആശാസ്യമല്ല. മിക്ക ഹിന്ദുകുടുംബങ്ങളിലും സർപ്പക്കാവുകളുണ്ട്. തിരുവല്ലാ താലൂക്കിൽ ചെറിയനാട് എന്ന പ്രദേശത്തു ഒരു സർപ്പക്കാവിനെ പുറംപോക്കാണെന്നു പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചു അവിടുന്നുകുറേപേർ ആ പുറംപോക്കിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു തുടങ്ങി.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : കാവുപുറംപോക്കു മുതലായ തറവാട്ടു ആരാധനാസ്ഥലങ്ങൾതന്നേ ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ കൊടുത്തതു അവയിൽപലതും ഇപ്പോൾ വിജാതിയരുടെ കയ്യിൽ ഇരിക്കുന്നതായിട്ടു മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ സർവ്വേ ചെയ്യുന്നതുതന്നെ കാവു് വിടുത്തിയാണ്. ഹിന്ദുക്കൾ ഒരിക്കലും അവരുടെ ആരാധനാസ്ഥലങ്ങളേ കൊടുക്കുകയില്ല. കാവിനേ എല്ലുക പറഞ്ഞേ കൊടുക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു സംഭവം തിരുവിതാംകൂർ സംസ്ഥാനത്തേ ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ല.

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Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : May I just point out for the information of the honourable member that Government have been approached by an alienee of one of such Kavu paramboos for registry in his name? That applicant is a Muslim

Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai : അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്തിരിക്കാം. അവന് ആരാധനയെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള വിശ്വാസം ഇല്ലാതെ വന്നിരിക്കും. എന്നാൽ സാധാരണയായുള്ള കർഷകന് അതു സങ്കടമാണ്. ഇനി ആറാട്ടു പുറംപോക്കു എന്നൊരു സ്ഥലമുണ്ട്. തോട്ടുകളുടേയും നദികളുടേയും തീരങ്ങളിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്ന കല്ലുകൾ ജലപ്രവാഹം നിമിത്തം ഇടിഞ്ഞു പോകുവാൻ ഇടയുണ്ടെന്നുകണ്ടു് ആ കല്ലുകൾ പുരയിടങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളിൽ ർ_ം, ം_ം ലിംഗ്സ് അളവു കയറിസ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നാണ് വ്യവസ്ഥയുള്ളതു്. ആ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ പുറംപോക്കായി പരിഗണിക്കുന്നതു നീതീകരിക്കത്തക്കതല്ല കാവുപുറംപോക്കു്, ഹിന്ദുക്കളുടെ ആരാധനാസ്ഥലങ്ങളാണ്. അവയിൽ അഹിന്ദുക്കൾക്ക് പ്രവേശനം കൊടുക്കരുതെന്നൊരപേക്ഷയുണ്ടു്. ഈ സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധാലോചനയ്ക്കു വിഷയീഭവിക്കണമെന്നഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

Mr. P. N. Nilakanta Pillai : Sir, in supporting the demand, I wish to make an observation that in the matter of purchase of paddy by Tahsildars there are certain hard cases. On account of flood and draught and other reasons some fields do not fetch any yield at all. When complaints regarding these are brought to the notice of the Tahsildars they, without making any enquiry into the matter, immediately, mercilessly demand paddy from the agriculturists. I, therefore, request Government that instructions may be given to the Tahsildar that in cases where complaints are received that certain fields do not give any yield, the Tahsildars should inspect the fields and then only come to a decision and ask for paddy.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : Sir, in supporting the demand, I do not want to traverse the field covered by my honourable friends. It was questioned here whether there are not provisions in the "Markets Act" for the proper maintenance of the markets. Whether there are provisions or not, it is left to the common-sense view point that Government has a duty for the proper maintenance of these markets. The purpose of the Act is not certainly to derive profit alone. I understand that in the case of some public markets, such as "Monday market" in Eraniel, the "Paripally market" in Quilon Taluk, even latrines are not provided. In all markets, at least in all publit markets, latrines should be built,

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[Mr. K. M. Kesavan.]

wells sunk and compound walls put up. Government must be prepared to spend sufficient money for the improvement and maintenance of all public markets under their control. But during the year under report (1117) Government have not spent even half the income from the markets for their improvement. The ideal of Government must always be the proper maintenance of markets and the provision of all necessary public amenities there. I am glad that the Dewan President has already stated that in future, the policy of Government in respect of markets, will be definitely based on these lines.

Rajyasevapravina K. P. Padmanabha Menon (*Electrical Engineer*): Sir, as my department was responsible for the pumping operations this year in certain portions of Vembanad reclamation which were assumed by Government for cultivation it may be of interest to the honourable member Mr. Krishna Aiyar to know that out of seven thousand seven hundred and odd acres we took up for pumping, cultivation in not even one acre of land was abandoned for want of engines, motors or pumps. On the other hand, the department was able to help the cultivators of other areas by the timely action in releasing suitable pumping sets. Government had no intention of making any profit on this transaction. They have, on the other hand, spent more than Rs. 14,000 for these pumping operations over and above the lease that they collected. But as a result of their efforts the yield of paddy from such lands increasqd considerably. It has been possible to raise 7 1/2 to 8 lakhs of paras of paddy as a result of their efforts.

As regards the realisation of dues from the cultivators for pumping operations, I may state for the information of Mr. Krishna Aiyar that this is a recurring feature. No similar difficulty is experienced in the realisation of such dues from other consumers. This year the total revenue collected from other consumers is over Rs. 10 lakhs and the balance due is mostly from the Punja Pumping. So far as the punja cultivators are concerned, it is a mystery to me and to my officers that there should be delays year after year for them to pay the dues when other consumers have no difficulty at all.

Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi: Sir, as observed from the Chair just a while ago, honourable members have been pleased to cover a variety of points relating to the administration and policy of the Land Revenue Department. The main points stressed are those relating to food and the present land policy of Government. The question of reviving the defunct post of Land Revenue Commissioner has also been discussed at some length.

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President: The honourable member, I am afraid, will have to concentrate on one or two points. He has got only five minutes more.

Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi: Yes, Sir. I shall confine myself to a few remarks on one or two of the most important points.

The most important problem in Travancore today, as well as in other parts of India, is the present food problem. Government are grateful to the honourable members of this House and elsewhere, and practically to all non-official organisations and leading non-officials throughout the State, for the large measure of co-operation and sympathy, support and suggestions, so far received at their hands in solving this problem. Let me, on behalf of Government, assure the honourable members that their comments and criticisms are viewed and appreciated in the helpful spirit in which they are made.

It has been stated here that there has not yet been an insistent drive in the direction of food production. This assumption seems to have been based on the absence of a full time officer for that work. May I submit, with all respect, that although this Government have not been imitating certain other Government in appointing Special Officers whenever any new situation arises, it has always been our policy, as laid down by a wise Administration, to utilise the services of the existing officers in carrying out such extra work as may come up now and again in view of the development of the war. As soon as the war broke out, the Head of the Administration, in consultation with his Chief Officers, initiated prompt and effective food control measures with the appointment of a Food Controller. Of course, there was no Special Officer. Instead the then Senior Secretary to Government was directed to take up this work as well: and the House knows that eventually, when the conditions demanded it, a full time Food Controller has been appointed by Government. It is a matter for just pride for Travancore that, compared with any other Government in India, we have been the earliest in adopting a definite food policy, thanks to the vision and wisdom of the Head of the Administration. It may be recalled that, on the last occasion this House met, the honourable member Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi pointed out that this Government have been sparing no pains to adequately face the rapidly developing food situation which arose out of the fall of Burma and the restrictions on import imposed by the neighbouring Provinces.

With my experience as Division Peishkar in charge of the Kottayam Division till recently, I can assure the honourable House that it has all along been the anxious pre-occupation of the Government to do their best to alleviate the misery and pain of the people in the face of such an unheard of situation, and to give the utmost possible measure of relief to the poorest to begin with, and then

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[Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi.]

go up to the top. Under the direction of the Head of the Administration, than whom there is not a greater Statesman in India today, and under the guidance of the Leader of the House, the indefatigable Chief Secretary to Government, who has such an intimate knowledge of local conditions, it has been possible for the District Officers and those in charge of Taluks to avert an apparently inescapable calamity even when the inflow of rice into the State from outside as in the past had been completely stopped for a while. This was by reason of the effective steps taken to conserve the entire quantity of food grains available within the State from time to time and the determined drive to augment local resources. In the effort to enhance the production, Government were constrained to assume certain paddy lands in Kuttanad which the owners and cultivators had proposed to leave fallow during the season. It is about this that my Honourable friend Mr. N. Krishna Iyer has made pointed reference in his speech on the motion before the House.

Let me, Sir, with your leave, avail myself of this occasion to publicly acknowledge the help and support I have had at the hands of the Honourable Member and the other members of his family in tackling the difficult problem that arose in connection with the assumption and cultivation of these fallow lands.

Since the Kuttanad area lies partly within Kottayam and partly within Quilon, the Peishkars of both the Divisions have had to take combined action in the matter. With the willing co-operation of the local public, my esteemed friend Mr. T. Chandy, who was then in charge of the Quilon Division, and myself were able to bring under cultivation thousands of acres of land which should otherwise have lain fallow until the next season, with the result that the State had a definite increase in production to the tune of about ten lakhs of paras of paddy. No doubt, the owners and cultivators of these lands had not made sufficient previous preparation for raising this crop; but still there was nothing like the hardship complained of.

Prior to the assumption of the lands in question, Government had offered adequate assistance to these owners and cultivators when exhorting them, in public interests, to bring the lands under cultivation. Mr. Chandy and myself, along with the Electrical Executive Engineer who was in charge of dewatering operations in Kuttanad by means of electrical energy, and the Excise Commissioner, on whom such well deserved encomium was bestowed on the floor of this House just a while ago, met the Kuttanad ryots at Kavalam and explained the position. The gathering had been convened under the auspices of the Kuttanad Oil Distribution Board,

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Try as we might, it was found absolutely impossible to persuade the people to cultivate the lands. Mr. Chandy, with his intimate personal knowledge of local conditions, met all their apparent objections and exhorted them, on behalf of Government, to spare no effort in stepping up their paddy production during the season in order to enable the authorities to meet an unprecedented situation affecting the entire State. Both of us assured them that Government would safeguard them against any possible loss—all to no purpose. It was in these circumstances that the lands had to be assumed.

Even when resorting to such a measure, Government safeguarded the interests of the ryots by leasing the lands to the owners themselves or their nominees—and that, on a mere nominal pattom in every case. What is more, the entire expenditure on pumping charges, amounting to about Rs. 80,000, has been borne by Government.

(President's bell.)

The question whether a sum of Rs. 10,56,524—under demand II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income pay be sanctioned was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND III—STAMPS.

Mr. A. Lekshminarayana Aiyar (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,00,091—under demand III—Stamps.

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,00,091 under Demand III—Stamps was put and carried. The grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

Rao Bahadur T. V. Venkateswara Aiyar (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant for Rs. 14,45,195 under Demand IV—Forest.

Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I wish to congratulate Government on the good income they are making. I was rather anxious and in fact I thought the situation created by the war was being exploited just to show an increase in income in a manner which could not be quite justified under the rules governing the wise conservation of forests. But looking into the reports and on close personal enquiries I understand that we are making these huge profits without in any manner impairing due conservation of our forests. I am also glad that with the co-operation of the Public Works Department they are making Forest Roads and that timber which was going to waste is being now utilised, bringing

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